

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:193

ANSWERED ON:28.11.2007

REVAMPING OF NATIONAL RIVER CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

Nedurumalli Janardhana Reddy Shri ;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to revamp the National River Conservation Programme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) & (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) & (b) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 193 to be answered on Wednesday, the 28th November, 2007 on "Revamping Of National River Conservation Programme"

(a) & (b) Conservation of rivers is a dynamic activity with the ever increasing pollution load due to increase in population. Review of the strategies of conservation policy and identification of additional towns and rivers is a continuous process. Water being a State subject, it is the responsibility of State Governments to create proper sewerage infrastructure to prevent pollution from entering the rivers. Central Government only supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing one time grant for capital works for identified polluted stretches. The National River Conservation Plan is a major programme of the Government under which pollution abatement works of major river in the country are undertaken.

Preliminary meetings have been held in the Prime Minister's Office for discussing the revamping of the National River Conservation Programme in the presence of representatives from other Ministries, independent experts in the field and Non Government Organizations (NGOs). The proposals discussed to revamp the strategy include among others, focus on quantity of river waters as much as on quality through integrated planning with the river as a unit, redesigning institutional arrangement at the national and state level, developing suitable indicators for measurement of water quality, integration with urban development Plans, social mobilization and independent oversight.